

# Heroes call *before* it's too late.

## **1-800-477-0024** **SCHOOL VIOLENCE TIPLINE**

### **FACT SHEET** for parents and teachers

#### **Background**

The School Violence Tipline provides a means for students to anonymously report threats of violence and weapon violations on school grounds. The tipline is answered by trained Illinois State Police telecommunicators who will refer the reports to local law enforcement agencies. Moreover, if the caller is distressed or overly agitated the telecommunicator can immediately forward the call to a local mental health crisis worker. The Office of the Attorney General distributes posters and magnets to schools to inform students in Illinois about this toll-free tipline.

#### **When discussing the tipline with your children or students, stress the following:**

- In the event that you feel threatened, know of a possible act of violence, or find out about a weapon but are unable to confide in a trusted adult, the tipline is an anonymous way to relay the information. However, you should call the tipline only if you feel it is impossible to talk to a trusted adult first. Confiding in a person you trust is by far the best way to deal with information about school violence.
- The School Violence Tipline was created to give you an anonymous way to report any threats of violence or weapons you might know about. You should call the tipline only in those situations where there is no immediate threat of violence to you or your fellow students.

*Examples:      You heard one student threaten another.  
                         You saw a weapon in a student's locker.*

- There is a distinct difference between incidents that require a 911 call and those that are appropriate for the tipline. **ANY RISK OF IMMEDIATE HARM SHOULD BE REPORTED TO 911 RIGHT AWAY.**

*Example:      A student has pulled out a gun in the middle of the cafeteria.*

- When you make a call to the tipline, make sure you are ready to give an accurate, detailed account of the situation. A trained telecommunicator will then assess the situation and make a determination about the appropriate response. In most instances the telecommunicator will refer the information to your local law enforcement and school officials.
- If you need additional assistance and request consultation, the Illinois State Police telecommunicator will transfer your call to a trained crisis worker.